



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:)
Ito et al.)
Serial No. 09/801,025)
Filed: March 7, 2001)
For: DRIVER CIRCUITS AND METHODS)
FOR MANUFACTURING DRIVER)
CIRCUITS)

Group Art Unit: 2815

Examiner: Jackson Jr., Jerome

AMENDMENT

15.36/8659
#9/a

4/8/03
Admth

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sirs:

In response to the Office Action dated October 24, 2002, the response being due by Feb. 24, 2003 by the enclosed petition for extension of time, please enter and consider the following.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1-2 as follows:

1. (amended) A driver circuit comprising a semiconductor integrated circuit having a transistor in which a drive signal is applied to the transistor to drive the transistor to thereby drive a load, the driver circuit comprising:

- an element region at least partially surrounded by an element isolation region;
- a signal line that supplies the drive signal to the transistor, the signal line extending across the element region;
- a dielectric layer formed in the element region;
- a gate electrode layer, wherein part of the gate electrode layer is positioned on the dielectric layer in the element region and part of the gate electrode layer is positioned outside of the element region; and

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